

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15  
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-----086538 040159Z /64

R 031515Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9905  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
DIA WASHDC

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USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PARM, UR, US  
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS KEEPS UP PRESSURE ON NEUTRON BOMB

SUMMARY: WEEKEND SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY ON NEUTRON BOMB  
SEEKS TO INTENSIFY PRESSURE ON U.S. AND FRG. SUBSTANCE  
IS CONSISTENT WITH PAST COMMENTARIES IN PRESS CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST RB/ER WEAPON BUT TONE IS BECOMING MORE STRIDENT,  
SUGGESTING SOVIET HOPE THAT CAMPAIGN MAY YET PROVE  
SUCCESSFUL. THE LACK OF RESPONSE TO THE ACADEMICIANS'  
LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER IS NOTED. END SUMMARY.

1. EXTENSIVE WEEKEND COMMENTARY IN THE SOVIET PRESS  
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ON THE NEUTRON BOMB IS MARKED BY CONTINUED REJECTION OF  
ANY LINKAGE OF THE RB/ER WITH OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND  
BY INTENSIFIED PRESSURE ON THE U.S. AND THE FRG TO ACCEPT  
SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A MUTUAL RENUNCIATION OF RB/ER  
WEAPON. MOST NOTABLE PIECES ARE IN IZVESTIYA OF APRIL 1  
AND PRAVDA OF APRIL 3. IZVESTIYA OF APRIL 1 CARRIES A  
LONG ARTICLE BY ITS BONN CORRESPONDENT N. POLYANOV WHICH

DISCUSSES THE DANGERS TO THE FRG IN ACCEPTING THE NEUTRON WEAPON. CITING THE ENORMOUS "RESPONSIBILITY" WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN ON BY AGREEING TO STATION NEUTRON WEAPONS ON FRG SOIL (TEN WEST GERMAN CITIES, ONE-THIRD OF THE POPULATION AND NEARLY ONE-THIRD THE INDUSTRY OF WEST GERMANY WOULD FALL WITHIN THE "ZONE OF OPERATION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPONS"), POLYANOV WARNS THAT THE "LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL DEPEND ON THE ARBITRARY DECISIONS OF NATO" IF WEST GERMANY WERE TO ACCEPT THE RB/ER WEAPON. CLAIMING THAT MANY IN WEST GERMANY UNDERSTAND THE RISKS INVOLVED IN ACCEPTING THE RB/ER WEAPON, POLYANOV ASSURES THE WEST GERMANS THAT IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE TO REJECT THIS WEAPON AND THUS TO PREVENT A NEW ROUND IN THE ARMS RACE.

2. PRAVDA OF APRIL 3 CARRIES A COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN BY VLADIMIR GUBAREV IN WHICH HE WARNS AGAINST EFFORTS IN THE U.S. TO "GIVE LIFE BY ANY MEANS POSSIBLE TO THE NEUTRON BOMB, TO EXPORT IT TO EUROPE." GUBAREV ADDS TO ESCALATION OF THE PURPLE PROSE ON THIS WEAPON BY CITING THE "NEUTRON MONSTER WHICH CAN BECOME CAPABLE OF CALLING FORTH NUCLEAR CATASTROPHE." HE ALSO CITES THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT BY THE 31 SOVIET SCIENTISTS ON THIS SUBJECT AND REPORTS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO THIS LETTER. A WIDE FRONT OF OPPONENTS OF THE NEUTRON BOMB, GUBAREV CONCLUDES, IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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URGING WESTERN GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A MUTUAL RENUNCIATION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS.

3. COMMENT. THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE EMBOLDENED BY THE DELAY IN NAC CONSIDERATION OF THE RB/ER WEAPON AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO RALLY FURTHER PUBLIC SUPPORT IN THE WEST FOR THEIR POSITION. THE TONE OF THE PRESS SUGGEST THAT MOSCOW THINKS THAT ITS CAMPAIGN MAY NOW HAVE A GREATER CHANCE OF SUCCESS. SOVIETS CONTINUE TO EXPLOIT THE LETTER OF THE SCIENTISTS TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE LACK OF ANY RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER, VERY LIKE THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY DID A WHILE BACK DURING A DELAY IN RESPONDING TO A LETTER FROM A SOVIET AIRLINE PILOT'S ASSOCIATION TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE BRAZINKAS HIJACKING CASE. TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR BOMBS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** SOVIET PRESS KEEPS UP PRESSURE ON NEUTRON BOMB SUMMARY: WEEKEND SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY ON NEUTRON BOMB SEEKS TO ITENSIFY PRESSURE ON U.S. AND FRG. SUBST  
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**Review Markings:**  
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